Oh Golden Gate ....

by CHARLES KEELER

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Oh Golden Gate

By CHARLES KEELER

WITH hills and heights about it rolled
There spreads a peerless reach of bay,
Outreaching arms benign to hold
All fleets that brave the world's highway.

There Tamalpais against the sky,
A sleeping maiden by the sea,
Dreams, as the stately ships drift by,
Of all the mighty days to be.

And San Francisco on its hills,
A phoenix city wrought of flame,
With strange prophetic promise thrills,
And heart-beats quicken at its name.

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The sunrise shore swells from the tide
To Oakland and the Piedmont heights,
With beauty gleaming far and wide
O'er misty lands of rare delights.

And Berkeley's hills take up the chain
That rings the bay with splendor rare,
And miles on miles of far-spread plain
Are thronged with homes and gardens fair.

The campanile's slender shaft
Amid the college halls upsprings,
And winds from seaward swell and waft
The golden song that from it sings.

Oh golden song, prophetic notes
That drift at evening from the tower,
About the land your message floats,
Of fairer life and larger power.

The sun sinks in the Golden Gate
And all the glory of the west
With banners of empurpled state
Is imaged on the water's breast.

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Oh Golden Gate, wide flung to greet
The commerce of the East and West,
Here shall the world to-morrow meet
Upon its never-ceasing quest.

Here shall the ships with silks and jade
And tea and spice find sheltering bay,
Here shall the endless tide of trade
Go rolling forth to feed Cathay.

Oh Golden Gate, Oh Golden song,
Oh promise of unreckoned things,
The vast Pacific wastes prolong
The burden that your promise brings,—

Of art that out of commerce grows
Where East meets West across the sea,
Of beauty, as from thorns the rose,
Of lofty culture here to be.

Arise, oh dreamers by the Gate,
Awake, the chimes have rung the hour;
You stand upon the shores of fate
And in your hands is boundless power!

KEELER CALIFORNIA LEAFLET SERIES
Number One

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